

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-5 and 9-17 have been cancelled. Claim 18 remains cancelled. No new matter has been added. Claims 6-8 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 6-8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter, and have rewritten claims 6 and 7 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 8 remains in its current form as it depends upon amended claim 7, and thus Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a withdrawal of the objection against claims 6-8 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

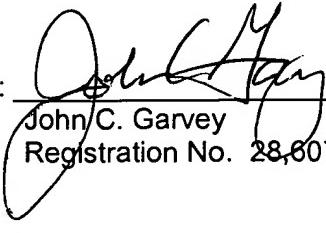
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7-26-06

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501